

## September

### Campfire Program

September 1

Bring a chair and some marshmallows and join a park ranger for an educational program on Southern Illinois wildlife.  
*7:00pm at the Crab Orchard Campground*

### Raccoon F.U.N. Program

September 8

Come out to the Crab Orchard Visitor Center to learn all about these cool nocturnal creatures.  
*10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Raccoon*  
*11am-12pm, Fun activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center*

### Butterfly Roundup

September 15

Monarch Butterflies travel through our area each year on their way to spend the cold months of winter in Mexico. Visitors are invited to help catch and tag these butterflies as they feed and rest at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. **Reservations are recommended.**  
*10am-12pm*

### Crab Orchard NWR Clean Up

September 15

The Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge will be hosting the annual Crab Orchard Clean Up at the Prairie Creek Recreation Area. Spend the day outdoors and help keep Crab Orchard beautiful.  
*8am-1pm*

### Hunting & Fishing Days

September 22 – 23; come join us out at John A. Logan College for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days. Attend a casting workshop, watch the dock dogs compete, listen to the waterfowl callers, try the shooting clays or archery range, check out all the latest gear and much more.

## October

### Red Fox F.U.N.

October 13

Get a close-up look at the secretive Red Fox.  
*10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Red Fox*  
*11am-12pm, Fun activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center*

### Photo Contest

The Friends of Crab Orchard will be accepting entries to their annual photo contest throughout the month of October. Categories include: Scenic, Wildlife, Plants and Youth.  
*Awards will be given out in the month of November*

See the Friends' website for more information: <http://www.friendsofconwr.com/>

### National Wildlife Refuge Week October 8-14

Discovery Tours: October 7, 14, 21, 28 from 1pm-4pm

We will open up the restricted portion of the refuge for a self-guided tour. Tours begin at the Wolf Creek Causeway from 1-4pm

## November

### Great Horned Owl F.U.N.

November 10

Great Horned Owls are some of the most skilled nocturnal predators at Crab Orchard NWR.  
*10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Great Horned Owl*  
*11am-12pm, Fun activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center*

## December

### Bobcat F.U.N.

December 8

Bobcats are abundant and frequently seen on the Refuge. Come learn about the lives of these small wild cats.  
*10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Bobcat*  
*11am-12pm, Fun Bobcat activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center*



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

## 2012 Calendar of Events



All events are free unless otherwise noted.  
Call the Refuge Visitor Center for more information 618-997-3344 ext.1

January

Kids Christmas Bird Count

January 7<sup>th</sup>

The Christmas Bird Count is one of the oldest wildlife surveys in North America. This program is specially designed to introduce kids and their parents to the count. Following a binocular boot camp, we'll break into teams and head out on a shortened mini-survey.

We'll meet back together when we're done to enjoy some hot cocoa and total our count.

9 AM – 12:00 PM at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

Bald Eagle F.U.N. Program  
(Families Understanding Nature)

January 14

See a live eagle up close and learn about the life habits of America's national symbol.

10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Bald Eagle

11am-12pm, Fun activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

Bald Eagle Tours

January 21, 22, 28 & 29

Guided tours visit eagle nests and areas of the Refuge where eagles may be spotted. **Reservations Required.**

8am, 11am and 2pm, meet at the Visitor Center; reservations beginning December 7

February

Cougar F.U.N. Program

February 11

Learn about Illinois' largest predator, the wide ranging and reclusive cougar.

10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Cougar

11am-12pm, Fun activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

March

Barn Owl F.U.N. Program

March 10

Although the Barn Owl has one of the largest ranges of any owl, it is uncommon in Southern Illinois.

10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Barn Owl

11am-12pm, Fun activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

April

Opossum F.U.N. Program

April 14

Learn about one of North America's fascinating marsupials.

10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Opossum

11am-12pm, Fun activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

Wildflower Walks

April 7, 14, 21, 28

Join a knowledgeable guide at the Rocky Bluff trailhead for a hike and an in depth program about spring wildflowers.

**Reservations are recommended.**

10am Rocky Bluff Hiking Trail Tacoma Lake Road

May

International Migratory Bird Day

May 12

International Migratory Bird Day celebrates the remarkable journeys of migratory birds.

Learn about the red tail, one of the most abundant and widespread hawks in Illinois.

10:30 am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a Red Tailed Hawk

9:30am-12:30pm, activities at the **Pigeon Creek Education Center**  
including family friendly beginning bird walks, bird feeder making and bird crafts and games.

Campfire Programs

May 26

Bring a chair and some marshmallows and join a park ranger for an educational program on Southern Illinois wildlife.

7:00pm at the Crab Orchard Campground

June

Kids Fishing Derby

June 9

The Kids Fishing Derby is a free event hosted by the Refuge and our many local sponsors and is a wonderful opportunity for families to spend a day together on the Refuge fishing. The Derby is for kids 12 and younger.

Registration begins at 8 am. Free lunch will be provided for participants and their families.

8am-12 pm, Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Campfire Programs

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Bring a chair and some marshmallows and join a park ranger for an educational program on Southern Illinois wildlife.

7:00pm at the Crab Orchard Campground

July

White Tailed Deer F.U.N.

July 14

Stop by the Visitor Center to visit with a live deer and learn some interesting facts about this popular mammal.

10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Deer

11am-12pm, Fun activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

Campfire Programs

July 7, 14, 21, 28

Bring a chair and some marshmallows and join a park ranger for an educational program on Southern Illinois wildlife.

7:00pm at the Crab Orchard Campground

August

Vulture F.U.N. Program

August 11

Vultures can digest meat at any stage of decay and withstand disease. Come see this remarkable scavenger.

10:30am-11am, Free Again Wildlife Rehab will be presenting a live Vulture

11am-12pm, Fun activities at the Crab Orchard Visitor Center

Campfire Programs

August 4, 11, 18, 25

Bring a chair and some marshmallows and join a park ranger for an educational program on Southern Illinois wildlife.

7:00pm at the Crab Orchard Campground

